



# NATIONAL ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE ADVISORY COUNCIL

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February 7, 2013

Lisa P. Jackson  
Administrator  
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency  
1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, D.C. 20460

Dear Administrator Jackson:

Before you leave, the members of the NEJAC (both current members and those who served during your tenure), would like to share what your leadership has meant for our communities throughout the nation and to the Council.

To begin with, we know of no other Administrator who has attended as many NEJAC meetings as you. You demonstrated an intimate knowledge of the challenges and issues faced in all of our communities and took the time to engage those most impacted. It was also the first time that the NEJAC had the opportunity to consistently engage and work with most of your Assistant Administrators. They attended all meetings and were prepared to answer questions about the historic work they were doing to incorporate environmental justice into rule making and permitting and so many other areas. From New Orleans to Brooklyn to Albuquerque, our communities praised the accessibility of an agency that has often been at the top of the list of environmental justice concerns.

Below is a short list of accomplishments on behalf of the most vulnerable communities in the US.

- Prioritizing environmental justice for all Americans
- Establishing standards and taking actions that improve air quality
- Setting the nation's first SO<sub>2</sub> limits in 40 years
- Setting historic fuel economy standards
- Conducting the first-ever comprehensive environmental justice analysis of a regulatory rule - the Definition of Solid Waste rule
- Launching the Urban Waters Federal Partnership
- Protecting families from lead, mercury and PCBs
- Removing confidentiality claims for more than 150 chemicals
- Revitalizing contaminated sites via the Superfund Re-use Initiative and the Area Wide Planning program
- Revitalizing and leading the Federal Interagency Working Group on Environmental Justice
- Personally engaged stakeholders in robust discussions about the reorganization of EPA's Office of Civil Rights and improving its enforcement of Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964
- Assessing the impact of Mountaintop Removal on EJ communities in Appalachia

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- Engaged tribal and indigenous peoples to develop environmental justice guiding principles and policies and producing a Tribal Policy to guide EPA's engagement with tribal communities.

On September, 14, 2011, Plan EJ 2014 was released - EPA's roadmap for considering how pollution may disproportionately impact communities; particularly those of which are low-income, minority and tribal communities. This effort considers environmental justice in agency rule-making, permitting, enforcement, science tools, and community-based actions. In December of 2011, as part of Plan EJ 2014, EPA released its EJ Legal Tools document which outlined in detail the many areas where EPA has the legal and statutory authority to address environmental justice concerns. This document, which was fifteen years in the making, was deeply appreciated.

On behalf of the NEJAC, a heartfelt thank you for your leadership, your commitment, and your heart -- frontline communities are better because of it. We remain hopeful, as you have left us with Bob Perciasepe, Mathy Stanislaus, Gina McCarthy, Michelle DePass, Nancy Stoner, Cynthia Giles, and, of course, Lisa Garcia and Charles Lee, to carry on your good works.

Hasta la Proxima,



Elizabeth Yeampierre  
Chair

cc: NEJAC Members  
Bob Perciasepe, EPA Deputy Administrator  
Cynthia Giles, EPA Assistant Administrator for Enforcement and Compliance Assurance  
Mathy Stanislaus, EPA Assistant Administrator for Solid Waste and Emergency Response  
Gina McCarthy, EPA Assistant Administrator for Air and Radiation  
Michelle DePass, EPA Assistant Administrator for International and Tribal Affairs  
Nancy Stoner, EPA Acting Assistant Administrator for Water  
Lisa Garcia, EPA Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice  
Charles Lee, EPA Deputy Associate Assistant Administrator for Environmental Justice  
Heather Case, Acting Director, EPA Office of Environmental Justice (OEJ)  
Victoria J. Robinson, NEJAC DFO, EPA OEJ